

Attorney Docket: 030441
U.S. Application No. 10/786,733 Examiner Watson Art Unit 3723
RCE in Response to October 9, 2007 Final Office Action

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A fish tape, comprising:

a longitudinal portion comprising a circular outer diameter, and defining a solid substantially cylindrical shape along the longitudinal portion of the fish tape, wherein the solid substantially cylindrical shape comprises a spiral groove defined along the circular outer diameter and extending along the longitudinal portion;

wherein the longitudinal portion of the fish tape comprising the spiral groove allows the fish tape to substantially flex in at least one vertical direction and in at least one horizontal direction relative to an axis of the cylindrical shape; and

an end portion attached to an end of the longitudinal portion, the end portion having a pair of radially opposed grooves extending from a terminal end of the end portion along a length of the end portion, each groove longitudinally extending along an outer surface of the end portion, each groove having a radial surface width that defines an open slot at the outer surface of the end portion, each groove having a bottom floor at a depth from the outer surface, the bottom floor having a floor width that is greater than the radial surface width, the bottom floor also having a convex shape such that a radius of the bottom floor is smaller than and concentric to an outer radius of the end portion,

~~an end portion comprising a plurality of grooves extending from the end portion at least partially along the longitudinal portion, wherein the end portion is attached to the longitudinal portion;~~

wherein the pair of radially opposed ~~plurality of~~ grooves in the end portion provide one or more mechanisms for attaching a plurality of wire or cable engaging attachments to the end portion of the fish tape.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The fish tape of claim 1, wherein the fish tape is constructed of a material selected from the group consisting of steel, stainless steel, carbon steel, and plastic.

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4. (Withdrawn) The fish tape of claim 1, wherein the outer diameter further comprises a plurality of facets about the outer diameter and extending along the longitudinal portion.
5. (Withdrawn) The fish tape of claim 1, wherein the outer diameter defines an ellipsoidal shape defining a substantially oval diameter.
6. (Withdrawn) The fish tape of claim 1, further comprising a spiral groove defined along the outer diameter and extending along the longitudinal portion.
7. (Withdrawn) The fish tape of claim 1, further comprising at least one notch about the diameter, and a plurality of the notches along the longitudinal portion forming a repeating pattern along the longitudinal portion
8. (Withdrawn) The fish tape, of claim 7, wherein the outer diameter comprises notches spaced apart about the diameter, and wherein a plurality of the spaced apart notches form a repeating pattern along the longitudinal portion.
9. (Withdrawn) The fish tape of claim 1, further comprising a corrugation defining an alternating groove and a ridge extending about the diameter and extending along the longitudinal portion.
10. (Withdrawn) The fish tape of claim 9, wherein the outer diameter comprises corrugations spaced apart about the diameter.
11. (Currently Amended) A fish tape device, comprising:

a fish tape comprising:

a longitudinal portion comprising a circular outer diameter, wherein the circular outer diameter ranges from about 0.1875 inches to about 0.375 inches; and defining a

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solid substantially cylindrical shape along the longitudinal portion of the fish tape, wherein the solid substantially cylindrical shape comprises a spiral groove defined along the circular outer diameter and extending along the longitudinal portion;

wherein the longitudinal portion of the fish tape comprising the spiral groove and the spiral groove allows the fish tape to substantially flex in at least one vertical direction and in at least one horizontal direction relative to an axis of the cylindrical shape;

an end portion attached to an end of the longitudinal portion, the end portion having a pair of radially opposed grooves extending from a terminal end of the end portion along a length of the end portion, each groove longitudinally extending along an outer surface of the end portion, each groove having a radial surface width that defines an open slot at the outer surface of the end portion, each groove having a bottom floor at a depth from the outer surface, the bottom floor having a floor width that is greater than the radial surface width, the bottom floor also having a convex shape such that a radius of the bottom floor is smaller than and concentric to an outer radius of the end portion;

~~an end portion comprising a plurality of grooves extending from the end portion at least partially along the longitudinal portion, wherein the end portion is attached to the longitudinal portion; and~~

a reel assembly for receiving the fish tape;

wherein the pair of radially opposed ~~plurality of~~ grooves in the end portion provide one or more mechanisms for attaching a plurality of wire or cable engaging attachments to the end portion of the fish tape.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The fish tape device of claim 11, wherein the fish tape is constructed of a material selected from the group consisting of steel, stainless steel, carbon steel, and plastic.

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14. (Withdrawn) The fish tape device of claim 11, wherein the outer diameter of the fish tape further comprises a plurality of facets about the outer diameter and extending along the longitudinal portion.
15. (Withdrawn) The fish tape device of claim 11, wherein the outer diameter of the fish tape defines an ellipsoidal shape defining a substantially oval outer diameter.
16. (Withdrawn) The fish tape device of claim 11, wherein the fish tape further comprises a spiral groove defined along the outer diameter and extending along the longitudinal portion.
17. (Withdrawn) The fish tape device of claim 11, wherein the fish tape device further comprises a plurality of notches about the diameter and extending along the longitudinal portion, and wherein the plurality of notches form a repeating pattern along the longitudinal portion.
18. (Withdrawn) The fish tape device of claim 11, wherein the fish tape further comprises a plurality of corrugations defining a plurality of alternating grooves and ridges extending about the diameter and extending along the longitudinal portion.
19. (Currently Amended) A fish tape, comprising:

a longitudinal portion comprising a circular outer diameter, defining a solid substantially cylindrical shape along the longitudinal portion of the fish tape, wherein the solid substantially cylindrical shape comprises a spiral grooves defined along the circular outer diameter and extending along the longitudinal portion;

an end portion attached to an end of the longitudinal portion, the end portion having a pair of radially opposed grooves extending from a terminal end of the end portion along a length of the end portion, each groove longitudinally extending along an outer surface of the end portion, each groove having a radial surface width that defines an

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open slot at the outer surface of the end portion, each groove having a bottom floor at a depth from the outer surface, the bottom floor having a floor width that is greater than the radial surface width, the bottom floor also having a convex shape such that a radius of the bottom floor is smaller than and concentric to an outer radius of the end portion;

~~an end portion comprising a plurality of grooves extending from the end portion partially along the longitudinal portion, wherein the end portion is attached to the longitudinal portion;~~

means for flexing the fish tape, wherein the longitudinal portion of the fish tape comprising the spiral groove and the spiral groove allows the fish tape to substantially flex in at least one vertical direction and in at least one horizontal direction relative to an axis of the cylindrical shape; and

means for attaching a plurality of wire or cable engaging attachments to the end portion of the fish tape, wherein the plurality of grooves in the end portion provide one or more mechanisms for attachment.

20. (Canceled)
21. (Previously Presented) The fish tape of claim 1, wherein the fish tape may navigate a plurality of bends within a conduit, wherein at least two of the bends lie in different planes.
22. (Previously Presented) The fish tape of claim 11, wherein the fish tape may navigate a plurality of bends within a conduit, wherein at least two of the bends lie in different planes.
23. (Previously Presented) The fish tape of claim 19, wherein the fish tape may navigate a plurality of bends within a conduit, wherein at least two of the bends lie in different planes.